IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 0035 with the following amended paragraph:

[0035]   By way of example, possible configurations of Data Volumes are shown in Figures 4 - 8. Referring initially to Figure 4, a simple volume 100 is shown on a single physical disk 101. Simple volumes include a meta-data extent 102 and a data extent 104. Depending on the size of the data extent, there may also be currently unallocated space 106. In Figure 5, two volumes 121, 125 are located on a single physical disk 130. In this configuration, there are two meta-data extents 122, 126 and two data extents 124, 128. In Figure 6, an extended simple volume located on a single physical disk 145 is shown. The extended simple volume includes meta-data extent 142 for a first volume (Volume 1), and data extents 144 and 150 for the first volume. The disk 145 also includes a meta-data extent 146 for a second volume (Volume 2) and a data extent 148 for the second volume. The use of two data extents 144, 150 for the first volume is purely operator preference and may be done, for example, where the amount of disk space originally allocated to volume 1 was not sufficient.

Please replace paragraph 0036 with the following amended paragraph:

[0036]   Referring now to Figures 7 and 8 in particular, volumes may be located across physical disks as desired. Furthermore, the data extents that make up a

particular Data Volume may be any size and be located across any number of physical disks. In Figure 7, for example, volume 1 includes <u>a meta-data extent 162 and</u> two data extents <u>164, 166</u>. One data extent 164 is located on a first disk (i.e. disk 1) 160 while the other data extent 166 is located on disk n 165. <u>Because the second data extent 166 for Volume 1 does not occupy the entire Disk n 165, there is some unallocated space 168 on Disk n 165.</u> In Figure 8, a similar arrangement is shown except in Figure 8 there is second volume 183 on disk 1 181.

Please amend the title to read as follows: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING INPUT/OUTPUT REQUESTS DIRECTED TO A VIRTUAL DATA VOLUME.

Please replace the current Abstract with the attached amended Abstract.